

iBikt

The iBikt offers the modern secularized man the benefit of the confession. We have built the confession booth from scratch with thick walls in dark wood. Details like the English wallpaper and the soft lighting is to provide a safe cozy environment for confession. When you step in on the creaking floor the lamp lights up and the dark voice of Efraim, coming from behind the grating, gently tells you to lock the door behind you. You knee down on the red velvet cushion and unburden your heart. Efraim is there to listen and all your secrets are safe with him.

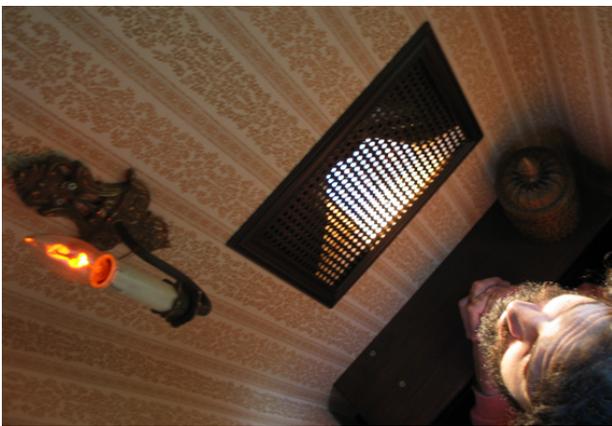


Figure 1: Confession in progress

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INTRODUCTION

The iBikt offers the modern secularized man the benefit of the confession. We have built the confession booth from scratch with thick walls in dark wood. Details like the English wallpaper and the soft lighting is to provide a safe cozy environment for confession. When you step in on the creaking floor the lamp lights up and the dark voice of Efraim, coming from behind the grating, gently tells you to lock the door behind you. You knee down on the red velvet cushion and unburden your heart. Efraim is there to listen and all your secrets are safe with him.

THE PURPOSE

iBikt was created during a course on how interaction designers explore relationships between senses and sensors. We did a lot of research and visited catholic churches in Malmö and Lund and thought about how we could make the optimal interactive confession experience. We wanted to make something for the non-religious people and refine the ritual of confession. When you confess to Efraim he listens and doesn't judge anyone. If you feel guilty about something you try to compensate by helping others – that's where the collection jar comes in to the picture. First we thought we should make the whole booth coin operated but then we imported the concept of collection. We have made it entirely voluntarily to put money in the collection and someone could take money from the jar instead if they want to. It is up to each and every one and we don't want control it. The surplus goes to charity.

THE TECHNIQUE BEHIND THE INTERACTION

There is one ultrasound sensor that detects the presence or absence of a person inside the booth so Efraim knows when he has a person to address and when he is alone. Sometimes when no one is inside you can hear him sigh or mutter. But when a person is inside he give directions and invites the person to come in, close the door behind them, lock it, knee on the pillow and make themselves comfortable. There are sensors on the door, in the lock and hidden in the pillow to make sure that people who have never confessed before can get directions. For instance some people don't know that you are supposed to get down on your knees. To make sure that Efraim does not interrupt someone in the middle of a confession there is a sound detector inside that regulates that.